

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /069 W

-----250501Z 103796 /15

R 250400Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY SANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1046

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANA 1572

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOV, PINR, PINT

SUBJECT: YEMENI CABINET RESHUFFLE

1. THE IMPACT OF THE AL-HAJRI ASSASSINATION OVERSHADOWED A RECENT CABINET RESHUFFLE WHICH SAW THE APPOINTMENT OF MUHAMMAD BASINDWA AS MINISTER OF PLANNING AND THE REMOVAL OF YAHYA AL-ARASHI FROM THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS BUT WITH NO SUCCESSOR NAMED.

2. BASINDWA IS AN ADENI WITH CLOSE CONNECTION TO FOREIGN MINISTER AL-ASNAJ. HE IS AN INTELLIGENT AND ACTIVE MAN WHO SHOULD BE A COMPETENT SUCCESSOR TO ABLE ABD AL-KARIM AL-IRYANI, NOW MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND PRESIDENT OF SANA UNIVERSITY. HE IS ALSO TRUSTED BY PRESIDENT AL-HAMDI, WHO HAS USED HIM IN THE PAST AS A ROVING AMBASSADOR AND CARRIER OF IMPORTANT MESSAGES TO VARIOUS ARAAB LEADERS. IF THE PRESIDENT INTENDS TO CONTINUE USING HIM IN THIS WAY, HOWEVER, BASINDWA WILL NOT REALIZE THE PROMISE HE HAS AS HEAD OF THE PLANNING ORGANIZATION WHICH REQUIRES CONSTANT SUPERVISION AND DIRECTION.

3. AL-ARASHI'S REMOVAL HAS BEEN LONG PREDICTED. HE HAS THE REPUTATION OF BEING A LEFTIST WITH BAATHI CONNECTIONS  
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AND ALLEGEDLY DURING HIS TERM OF OFFICE FILLED THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION WITH LIKE-MINDED INDIVIDUALS. AL-ARASHI HAS BEEN NAMED GOVERNOR OF IBB AND AFTER INITIAL STRONG RESISTANCE TO THE APPOINTMENT HAS NOW RELUCTANTLY AGREED TO TAKE ON HIS NEW OFFICE. GIVEN AL-ARASHI'S NATIVE INTELLIGENCE, WE EXPECT THAT HE WILL SURVIVE POLITICALLY OVER THE YEARS, ALTHOUGH FOR THE TIME BEING AT LEAST IT IS

DOUBTFUL THAT HE WILL BE GIVEN ANOTHER MAJOR POSITION.

4. IN THE MEANTIME THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION CONTINUES TO BE HEADED TEMPORARILY BY AHMAD QASIM DAHMASH, MINISTER OF LABOR, SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND YOUTH, WHO IS A CLOSE PERSONAL FRIEND OF THE PRESIDENT BUT WHO IS NOT PARTICULARLY NOTED FOR HIS ABILITIES OR MORAL CHARACTER. INDICATIONS ARE THAT AL-HAMDI IS LOOKING FOR SOMEONE WHOM HE CAN TRUST AND WHO WILL BE STRONG ENOUGH TO REORGANIZE THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION, WHICH IS NOTORIOUS FOR ITS LEFTIST SYMPATHIZING PERSONNEL. SCOTES

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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